

Legal: Allens Linklaters (formerly Allens, Arthur, Robinson)



International Law Firm Makes the Case for Accellion Mobile Apps.

Background

Founded in 1822, Allens Linklaters (Allens) is an international law firm comprised of 800 lawyers offering the best legal minds and resources for clients worldwide. With offices in 14 cities throughout Australia and Asia, the firm's experience and expertise has been instrumental in successfully handling some of the region's highest-profile deals.

Challenges

Allens maintains a distinct vision for all of its client engagements: to combine technical excellence and commercial insight to deliver superior service and the clearest of answers. To make that possible, the firm understands the importance of providing a straightforward and fast way for attorneys and clients to share and connect on timely case information. Yet, its methods of choice were far from speedy – or secure.

When employees needed to send large legal documents – whether to a colleague across the country or to a client around the globe – there were two options: burn the files to a CD and ship to the recipient or use an FTP service. Both options hindered business interactions, with users either relying on IT's involvement for FTP transfers or waiting for recipients to receive shipped CDs, eating up potential billable hours. Plus, each opened up to the firm to security risks, with uncertainty about whether files had been received, opened, or reviewed.

"We could have easily allowed employees to use consumer grade solutions such as Dropbox, that, on the surface, would have gotten the job done," said Shawn Schmidt, Infrastructure Manager with Allens Arthur Robinson. "But, we knew our firm and our clients needed something they could trust and rely on."

In addition to being able to track and report on file transfer activity, Allens wanted to support the mobility of their client base, allowing users to access documents from anywhere, whether on an Android, iPad, or other mobile device. And, that mobile access had to be intuitive for users, as well as provided via a hosted on-premise solution, minimizing the management required by IT.

Solution

To find a solution to meet its established criteria, Allens tested eight solutions, including Accellion, Dropbox, and Watchdox. The firm

immediately narrowed the search to two based on functionality, but Accellion was the only vendor that provided a multitude of deployment options, allowing Allens' to host the solution on-site.

Next, the firm tested Accellion among a pre-defined group of internal users, evaluating the breadth of features and ability to easily share information across geographic boundaries. The solution passed with flying colors. Plus, Allens cited Accellion's price per functionality as a major differentiator providing the most robust solution for the best value.

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"Where our data is transported and ultimately resides is very important to us and our clients," said Schmidt. "Now our attorneys can collaborate on upcoming cases, maintain up-to-date visibility into how their documents are being accessed, and rest assured that confidential information stays out of the wrong hands."

Accellion is also being used by the firm's IT department to boost support response times. While the support team traditionally relied on FTP, users now go to Accellion Secure File Transfer to upload support logs and troubleshooting data, providing a one-stop shop for sharing IT help desk information.

And the best part, with Accellion Mobile Apps, users – whether attorneys, IT help desk staff, clients, or external partners – gain mobile access to the information they need. If they're in the airport, en route to a meeting, or at home, secure business interactions can move forward as planned. Users on the go can safely save files (in an AES256 bit encrypted container) on the device for future offline use and/or securely send links to files or folders to desired parties.

For an added layer of mobile device security, Allens is also deploying Accellion Mobile Apps in conjunction with mobile device management (MDM) vendor MobileIron, allowing for the ability to remotely wipe the device of confidential data in the event the device is lost or stolen.

Allens also took advantage of Accellion's custom branding, as it was important for clients to know they're uploading their confidential information into a trusted solution that carries the firm's name.

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BENEFITS

- Provided a go-to source for attorneys and clients to share sensitive case information
- Allowed IT support group to quickly distribute troubleshooting documents
- Secure global collaboration
- Enabled attorneys and clients on the go to easily access and share key documentation
- Hosted on-premise to provide tight security control, with minimal IT support
- Eliminated employees' reliance on FTP services

Specifications

Allens	
Deployed since	2011
# of Internal and External Users	1,800
LDAP/AD directory integration	Yes
Web Interface	Branded
Email integration	Yes
MDM Vendor	MobileIron